

United Nations  Nations Unies

**DIVISION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN**

**OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

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## Rights of the Child in Damascus, Syria in December 2003

### **Outputs/ Activities**

Approximately 50 participants will attend the workshop. All six invited States are due to submit periodic reports to one or both of the treaty bodies, or have recently presented their reports. The participants will comprise government officials responsible for reporting and implementation of the Conventions, including national machineries for the advancement of women, as well as representatives of NGOs, national human rights institutions, and from UN country teams.

The workshop will take place over three and a half days and will be facilitated by CEDAW and CERD experts. The workshop will comprise both plenary and working group meetings and will focus on ways to better implement the provisions of the two Conventions, especially to encourage creation of a more permanent and sustainable institutional framework to support effective follow-up to, and implementation of concluding comments/observations.

The working groups will focus on common areas of concern to both Conventions and Committees, drawn from recent concluding comments/observations from countries participating in the workshop. Opportunities for synergies in implementation of the concluding comments/observations of the two treaty bodies will be identified.

In-depth discussions in small groups will include the following topics:

- Constitutional and legislative frameworks, and challenges in the implementation of the Conventions;
- Independent monitoring structures including national machineries;
- Discrimination-based violence, including incitement to racial violence

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